

because they employ only drugless methods of treatment, and they say that "you will notice that at no time has a diagnosis been made." This because they record diseases and defects by *code* numbers.

Listen to this:

"When each child's pink card reaches this (statistical) table, any number below a 9 is copied from the card onto the list in the corresponding space opposite the child's name. By this means a complete record is obtained of all suspected defects of the class. A deduction is made for anything marked below a 9. For instance, a child is marked a 7 on teeth—clean, an 8 on posture, an 8 on nutrition, and all the rest 9. His total deduction is 4 (3 for every 6, 2 for every 7, and 1 for every 8). This figure is written on the pink card in a space provided, and also on the Classroom List opposite the child's name. The number of 6's, 7's, and 8's in the class is then added, as well as the number of deductions."

We assume that as soon as these statisticians become familiar with the modern method of selecting special cards by passing rods through cards with holes punched in them in certain manners, they will be able to elaborate their statistics and increase the variety of diagnoses without overworking the statistical department, whose figures furnish the basis for more and more publicity and propaganda. Just think of the speed with which one can practice medicine when all that is necessary to establish the child's grade of health is to run a rod through holes in cards!

Mothers and fathers of Oakland, and to a less extent elsewhere, will make serious mistakes if they accept and rely upon the findings of such hurried, unreliable and often otherwise incompetent data as a guide as to what to do about the health of their children. Diagnoses of diseases and defects are not made by such balderdash, and the earlier the general public finds it out the better for the health of their children.

There is an educated physician in Oakland for about each 600 people, including men, women, and children. They all have offices, hospital connections, and facilities for getting laboratory, x-ray and other assistance. Their ethics provide that they may serve for fees consistent with the patient's ability to pay, whether nothing, little, or much. If a patient doesn't believe in them, then he should go to his favorite species of quack; it is doubtful if many would believe in any quack enough to feel the security that they are asked to accept from the incompetent formularized diagnoses of disease made by the school health "teams." The leaders in this work emphasize the untruthful claim that their work is free to the rich and to the poor alike. This is not a fact; it is paid for by everyone who pays taxes. Even if it were free, it still may be the most expensive service of all unless it is checked up by a physician who does not stultify his own soul by trying to carefully examine 400 patients in one day.

#### THE TRUE PHYSICIAN AND HOW YOU MAY RECOGNIZE HIM

(Read, approved and ordered published by the Executive Committee of the C. M. A.)

What doctor to call is a momentous question to ever-increasing numbers of people. It always has been a problem, but the many facilities stimulating the "wanderlust" spirit keep ever-growing numbers

of people away from home friends and family doctors. The problem is also constantly being accentuated by the breaking down of laws and methods employed by state governments in placing their stamp of approval (license) upon those who treat the sick.

California, as "the world's playground," has an exceedingly large element of floating population. It is also quite well known as a state that puts its stamp of approval upon all sorts of cults and inadequately educated practitioners of healing.

Hundreds of appeals come to medical organizations, medical publications and other medical agencies from guests at hotels and transients of all classes, asking to be referred to a "reliable doctor." Obviously, medical organizations cannot give this information further than to show enquirers a list of members of medical societies and the staffs of good hospitals.

It is believed that intelligent persons will find little difficulty in selecting a competent physician themselves by measuring them by the following points:

#### WHAT CHARACTERIZES THE TRUE PHYSICIAN

1. His education is attested by the degree of "Doctor of Medicine" from some worthy institution of learning.

2. His moral, ethical and professional standing is attested by his membership in his county, state, and national medical associations.

3. His standing as a man (or woman) and as a citizen is attested by precisely the same standards applicable to others.

4. His legal standing should be attested by his license to treat the sick. Unfortunately, this license means very little in many states, and in few it is more unreliable than in California.

5. The true physician never practices, never recognizes and never connubiates with those who do practice, sectarian or secular medicine, fads or cure-alls of any sort under any circumstances whatsoever.

6. He considers the patient rather than the disease, and he utilizes all proved knowledge and any or all proved methods in the treatment of his patients.

7. He recognizes that every patient—and every human being for that matter—needs advice calculated to avoid and prevent health dangers, correct existing troubles, and prevent their repetition or progress.

8. He knows that the infirmities of the body, mind, and soul are inseparably linked together so as to require all that science, art, and personality can bring to bear in the patient's behalf. He renders what he can of these services, and he delegates the others wisely.

9. He understands that no one person can know or practice to the best advantage all phases of the great field of medicine; and, therefore, whenever indicated and feasible, he asks other physicians for the assistance he needs.

10. He either maintains, or has contacts which insure, adequate consultation, laboratory, x-ray, nursing, hospital, and all other services necessary for the welfare of his patients.

11. He follows the moral code of his profession,

which insures confidential, sympathetic, consecrated service to his patients in such volume and at such times and in such places as are provided.

12. Like any other servant, he is entitled to a just compensation, but again he follows that provision of his ethics that entitles his patient to service at a compensation entirely consistent with his ability to pay.

13. He neither indulges in nor permits "personal puffery." When his name is seen in the public press, it is usually as the author of some dignified statement about the condition of some patient whose welfare is a matter of public concern. More rarely he may give an authorized interview or write an article for public information upon some health subject. He relies for the growth of his own clientele upon the influence of the ever-widening circle of those friends whom he has served.

14. If older and more experienced, he is ever extending the helping hand to the worthy younger men of his profession. And if a younger man, he is upholding the prestige of those already established. He is always interested in and helpful to worthy members of the ever-enlarging groups of assistants he must utilize to render the best to his patients.

15. He will admit that the best medical education is often inadequate, and he will endorse the statement of Hippocrates that "experience is fallacious and judgment difficult." But he feels that physicians are the only persons even remotely prepared by education and training for leadership in matters pertaining to the improvement of health, the limitation of diseases, and the treatment of sick people.

16. He contributes, when he can, to medical literature; attends and takes an active part in medical society meetings; subscribes to and reads good medical journals; he thoroughly examines and carefully studies his patients, and he always makes written records of his findings. He is never boastful nor inclined to discuss his patients with others. He never guesses; when in doubt, he says so and invites consultation or assistance. He realizes his responsibilities and approaches his problems with the humility, seriousness, and earnestness of purpose that ever characterizes the servant of God or of man and of science.

#### CALIFORNIA ALSO

The following editorial in the May issue of the journal of the Indiana Medical Association applies with equal force to California and probably most other states. Its reproduction may be more useful than writing another one. In any event, it is a pleasure to thus acknowledge the courtesies that the Indiana Medical Journal extends occasionally to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

"About three or four hundred doctors in Indiana who last year were members in good standing of the Indiana State Medical Association are now delinquent in their dues. Presumably, these men know that on and after February 1 they were not members in good standing in the state association, and consequently not entitled to medical defense at the hands of the association for any malpractice suit brought in connection with services rendered while delinquent. Furthermore, these former members are not receiving *The Journal*, inasmuch as the postoffice de-

partment does not permit us to send *The Journal* to delinquents. As a matter of fact, we are surprised to know that there are so many doctors in Indiana who are so careless and indifferent to their own interests that they will neglect as important a matter as keeping up membership in their county and state medical societies. Some of them make the excuse that they are provoked because of a raise in dues, and every man who makes that excuse ought to hang his head in shame, for it does not speak well for his reputation as a person possessed of good judgment. The same men will pay their golf dues, cigar bills, or the cost of many other unnecessary and foolish extravagances, and never say a word. The only reason they object to medical society dues is that the dues are fixed by some of their confreres, and anything that comes from a confrere is looked upon with suspicion. It is high time that medical men improve their conduct in this direction."

#### THE DOCTOR'S MAIL

We are much gratified with the splendid cooperation from members in all parts of the state, in response to our editorials suggesting that certain types of mail be forwarded to the editor. By way of illustration, we have already received from members nine copies of circular letters and a certain newspaper called "El Internacional." The opening paragraph in the circular letter states:

"In sending you this newspaper, I take the opportunity of making you the following proposition: As the reporter for this publication (the owners of which represent more than sixty Spanish newspapers, as you will see from one of the advertisements in *El Internacional*), I shall meet all the people who come here from Latin America, and will have the opportunity of recommending your establishment to all the people who come here from Latin America, and will have the opportunity of recommending your establishment to all of them, and of either conducting them to your place of business or of sending them to you with my card. I am ready to do this on the understanding that you will offer me a commission on the account of each customer so introduced."

This explains a point made in the original editorial on the subject. Surely, an offer of this kind is based either upon an amazing ignorance of what physicians stand for, or else the promoter holds a very poor opinion of the sincerity with which physicians practice their ethics, as well as the price necessary to cause cupidity to win over ethics.

#### DOCTOR FINKELSTEIN'S VISIT

Elsewhere in this issue, Doctor Langley Porter of San Francisco pays a beautiful tribute and an undoubtedly merited compliment both to Doctor Finkelstein and the members of the medical profession of our state. Visits of this character by men of real scientific attainments and who are real leaders in the profession have far-reaching effects upon the cause of better health service to our people. It is always profitable to publish the message such leaders leave with us for the benefit of those who could not receive the message in person. Often, too, these messages are of such great importance that they ought to be incorporated into medical literature.

CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE would be glad to have merited comments, such as Doctor Porter's regarding Doctor Finkelstein, when other prominent leaders visit us. Neither CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, nor any other magazine, can make news without information upon which to